

Message Text

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54

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01

DRC-01 /126 W* * ----- 110892

R 281028Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7669

INFO CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

COMSIXTHFLT

JUSMG MADRID SP

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7680

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR ENRG SP

SUBJECT: LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON US NAVY FUEL NEEDS

REF: MADRID 7476

1. SPANISH FUEL DISTRIBUTORS CEPSA AND CAMPSA HAVE DECLINED OUR REQUESTS FOR FUEL FOR US NAVY SHIPS CALLING AT BARCELONA AND VALENCIA DURING DECEMBER. SPOKESMAN OF BOTH COMPANIES CLAIM THEY ARE BARRED BY MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ENERGY, FROM SELLING FUEL TO SHIPS UNLESS THERE IS EXISTING CONTRACT.

2. IN HOPE OF GETTING CLEAR STATEMENT OF SPANISH POLICY ON PROVISION OF FUELS, AND TO MAKE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AWARE AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL OF US CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE BAN O *UEL SAL S, I HAVE SENT FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ RODO FOLLOWING LETTER. IF REPLY CONFIRMS THAT FORMAL BAN EXISTS OR IS OTHERWISE UNSATISFACTORY, I INTEND TO INCLUDE THE
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FUEL ISSUE AS AN AGENDA ITEM AT NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE OR, IN CASE OF DELAYED REGULAR MEETING, TO

MAKE IT THE SUBJECT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER:

"MY DEAR MR. MINISTER:

"I WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CLARIFICATION OF A MATTER THAT COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES NAVY'S USE OF SPANISH PORTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

"IN NOVEMBER A SIXTH FLEET TENDER, THE USS GILMORE, PROPOSED TO CALL AT THE PORT OF PALMA DE MALLORCA WHERE IT WOULD HAVE PURCHASED 350,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CEPESA, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO SUPPLY THE REQUESTED FUEL BECAUSE OF WHAT WE UNDERSTAND WAS A DIRECTIVE FROM THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY. SUBSEQUENTLY, IN PREPARATION FOR THE VISIT OF THREE SIXTH FLEET SHIPS EACH TO BARCELONA AND VALENCIA DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING DECEMBER 16, THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ATTACHE ROUTINELY REQUESTED CEPESA AND CAMPSA TO PROVIDE FUEL FOR THOSE SHIPS AT THOSE PORTS. THE NAVAL ATTACHE WAS INFORMED AT THAT TIME THAT UNLESS THERE IS AN EXISTING SALES CONTRACT, THOSE TWO COMPANIES WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO SELL THE REQUESTED FUEL. AN OFFICIAL OF THIS EMBASSY WHO SUBSEQUENTLY SOUGHT CLARIFICATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY WAS TOLD BY A SPANISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL THAT PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT UNLESS THE PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS HAD A PRE-EXISTING CONTRACT, THE COMPANIES WERE NOT TO SUPPLY FUEL.

"WHILE THE UNITED STATES NAVY DOES NOT HAVE EXPLICIT CONTRACTS WITH FUEL DISTRIBUTORS IN SPANISH PORTS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ITS SHIPS HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED REGULARLY WITH FUEL AT THOSE PORTS FOR MANY YEARS, IN THE SAME MANNER THAT SPANISH NAVAL VESSELS HAVE REGULARLY RECEIVED FUEL AT UNITED STATES PORTS. MOREOVER, PARAGRAPH 10 OF ANNEX IV OF THE AGREEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION, WHICH DEALS WITH SHIP VISITS, CITES FUELS AMONG THOSE LOGISTIC SUPPLIES THAT WILL NORMALLY BE ACCORDED TO VESSELS OF THE US FORCES, SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTIFICATION.

"I AM OF COURSE CONCERNED WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT RESTRICTIVE NEW CONDITIONS MAY NOW HAVE BEEN ABRUPTLY ADDED TO A LONG-STANDING COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP, SUCH AS THE ONE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND SPANISH FUEL DISTRIBUTORS, THAT HAS WORKED SO SUCCESSFULLY FOR SO MANY YEARS. SINCE I HAVE RECEIVED NO FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF ANY NEW CONDITIONS REGARDING THE SALE OF FUELS, I WOULD BE MOST

GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING ME A STATEMENT OF
YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE SALE OF FUELS TO
NAVAL VESSELS AT SPANISH PORTS AT THIS TIME.

"AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, YOU UNDOUBTEDLY CAN
APPRECIATE MY CONCERN FOR THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON OUR MUTUAL
DEFENSE EFFORTS IF THERE WERE SERIOUS RESTRICTIONS ON THE
FUEL SUPPLIES OF U.S. NAVAL SHIPS IN THIS AREA. END TEXT
RIVERO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, SUPPLIES, ENERGY, CONSERVATION, REFUELING, JET FUEL, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MADRID07680
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973123/aaaaabzc.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MADRID 7476
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <30-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON US NAVY FUEL NEEDS
TAGS: MARR, ENRG, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005